

him more will be given. Let us look at what men have gained through science in the last fifty years and thankfully acknowledge that our great scientists are great prophets even if they sometimes doubt and question the source of their own inspirations.

To descend more completely to our own level, here are some questions over which we might pause a minute, for answers to them would help many a perplexed plant.

1. Ought we to train children to be ambidexter?  
for example, the inevitable B.-P. and his left-hand sketches.
2. Why does every normal child love horses with such passion?

How many of the "Plants" read novels? To those who do and also those who do not, I recommend Miss Tower's new book, *The Farringdons*, not for any intrinsic merit of its own, but because in a certain "Fox How," and "the dear lady," I think we shall recognize something and somebody very dear to us.

The window into the world is, I fear, rather uninteresting this month. Forgive me, for my window is a temptation and a snare, being on the front of a certain fascinating watering-place, which shall be nameless, and the procession of humanity is trotting up and down, the fishing fleet is just putting out to sea, the moon and the electric light are squabbling over the bones of the dying day, and it is much easier to be interested than to be interesting.

Before "Peter" looks through the window again we shall most of us have been home for our spell of summer freedom. I was very much amused last week to meet an outsider, who comes from a town rich in students: "Oh, do you come from Ambleside? How lucky for you. I notice the Ambleside girls always look so plump and prosperous when they come home!" Whatever we may think and believe, it was intended for a genuine compliment!

In conclusion, "Peter" will be most grateful to receive, c/o the Editor, any suggestions of "Questions for Consideration" or subjects to comment upon—the wider the view from our window the better.

PETER.

## EDITORIAL.

You will remember the suggestions which were sent to each one of you for your criticism, and which most of you answered. The proposal to have three numbers of the Magazine each year was unanimously agreed with, but Miss Flower writes to tell me that the state of our finances makes a third issue impossible for this year at least. We did not want to raise subscriptions, but we have to make a choice of evils. Will you all please let me know which of them you consider the lesser? If you are willing to pay a slightly increased subscription for a year or two, until the numbers of our Association, which should increase each year, becomes sufficiently large to pay its way at the old rate, please let me know; and send all manuscripts for the Autumn term number by October 15th. If all ex-students and present students who are not already members of the Association would join it and pay their subscriptions to Miss Flower we should probably be able to manage our three issues at once.

I must thank all the students who have helped me with suggestions. Many of you thought that extracts from Nature Note-books, flower lists for comparison, and new handicraft directions should be published. To this I quite agreed, and began at once to clear out cupboards and boxes in anticipation of the bales of manuscript which I thought would be forthcoming. But I found that most of you meant by your suggestions, not that you should send *your* notes, but that *other people* should send *theirs*. There are, it appears, only two or three of these "other people" in the Association, and to them we owe such nature and handicraft notes as appear. A few weeks ago, anyone passing a certain dark and muddy pool might have observed the Editor in search of material for the nature section of *L'Umile Pianta*, stirring up the depths thereof with a stick, and fishing out sundry objects with a net, while a crowd of interested urchins watched the whole process evidently under the impression that this was an entertainment got up for their especial benefit. I tried to

explain that I was not a dangerous lunatic as they seemed to suppose, but a harmless editor. This seemed to impress them with a sense of awe. I remember, in youthful days, when I used to receive communications from editors presenting their compliments (how one does hate those compliments)—but begging “to send back,” etc.—that I formed a mental picture of these awful beings as creatures with huge blue spectacles, huge mouths which shut with an imperative snap, and heads the capaciousness of which was only exceeded by that of their waste-paper baskets. But I digress—I want to tell you that I *do not possess* a waste-paper basket, but will return you your manuscripts, as I think this is only fair to you. As far as articles on general subjects are concerned, I think you have all responded splendidly, and I only wish more of your contributions could be published, but, alas! “the less cannot contain the greater.”

Miss Allen has very kindly undertaken to send out the Magazines, as we think that this will be less confusing than sending them to the committee members. Hat-bands and ties are to be got from Miss Pennethorne.

Miss Kathleen Conder has sent some very clear notes, with diagrams, on the way in which her pupils are furnishing a doll's house with furniture made by Sloyd. The diagrams cannot well be printed, but I will forward her letter to anyone who thinks she would find them useful. Here are some of her notes:—

“I find that with children it is better to make the things of two or three thicknesses of thin cardboard glued together, after being cut and then bound, rather than attempt the thick cardboard. Dimensions, of course, vary with the size of the doll's room. The beds are made in five pieces. One thickness of cardboard is bent upwards at the two ends, for the head and foot respectively; two are bent downwards to make it stand firmly; and two separate unbent pieces are glued to back up the upright top and bottom of the bed. The chest of drawers is intended to be used as a wash-hand stand as well. The working diagram is simple. The top overlaps all round, except at the back, where it is turned up.

“At present we have not attempted the chairs. Has anyone attempted them, and if so, would they kindly let us have their designs? Another model I should very much like to

have is that of a new basket, for a child to make with canes Nos. 3 and 0. My pupils have made nearly all the easy baskets I know. I find a great favourite is a miniature clothes-basket.”—K. C.

Here is another “gleaning”:—“I have lately made a kind of Happy Families of irregular French verbs. Each family consists of the five primitive tenses on little cards dealt round to each child and collected in the same way as in the usual game. If A asks B for Present Participle “*Savant*,” B replies, “Engaged,” showing that she possesses the card, but that the word is incorrect, so that A knows where to apply if she can find out her mistake.”—A. K.

I (the Editor) should be very pleased to be a medium for forwarding answers to any questions such as the above to the right quarters.

I am sure most of the students have at least one hint to offer *pro bono publico*. Please also answer Miss Magill's suggestions about the formation of a literary society. There has been much talk about a students' re-union. It would be delightful and ought to be managed somehow. Some have suggested making use of the Oxford Summer meetings. There are so many important things to be done in the summer holidays, but still there is no reason why the attempt should not be made. Some of the students have a scheme for meeting next Easter at Ambleside. I know of at least twelve students who solemnly promised, one frosty night last year, that they would make every effort to spend at least a few days at Ambleside during Easter, 1901, and I, for one, do not mean to forget it.

I am asked to insert the following notices:—

1. *Nature-Lore and Nature Note-Books*, by M. L. Hodgson. Price 10d., post free. Address, The Limes, Ambleside.

2. Miss Stewart Wood's classes for out-of-door Painting will be held, for a fortnight during the month of August, at Pulborough, Sussex. All particulars may be obtained by writing to Miss Wood, 44, Holland Street, Kensington.